

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A method for diagnosing sepsis in a patient comprising the steps of:

measuring an amount of low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid sample from the patient, wherein said low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins have an amino acid sequence wherein 42 or more amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein, SEQ ID NO: 1, are deleted, and

comparing the measured amount ~~value~~ to a standard amount measured in body fluid samples ~~value~~ of normal persons or patients in order to diagnose sepsis in the patient.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins do not bind

to F1025-3-1 antibody as produced by a hybridoma cell line deposited as FERM BP-7296.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 15, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are primarily ~~mainly~~ 36 kDa proteins.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for measuring low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid, wherein said low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins have ~~having~~ an amino acid sequence wherein 42 or more amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein are deleted, comprising the steps of:

- (A) measuring immunologically a total amount of soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid;
- (B) measuring immunologically an amount of high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid, wherein said high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are human full length soluble CD14 protein or soluble CD14 proteins having an amino acid sequence wherein 41 or less amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein, SEQ

ID NO: 1, are deleted; and

- (C) calculating an amount of low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid by subtracting the amount of high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins from the total amount of soluble CD14 proteins.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein said step (A) ~~further~~ comprises specifically reacting the body fluid to a first anti-CD14 antibody and measuring first antibody-bound ~~the reacted~~ amount of soluble CD14 proteins; and

said step (B) ~~further~~ comprises specifically reacting the body fluid to a second anti-CD14 antibody different from the first antibody which binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1 and measuring second antibody-bound ~~the reacted~~ amount of soluble CD14 proteins as indicative of the amount of high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 19, wherein each of said step ~~the reacting step and the measuring step~~ in (A) and said step (B) are ~~analyzed by~~ an immunological sandwich method, that comprises the reacting step and the measuring step.

21. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins do not bind to F1025-3-1 antibody as produced by a hybridoma cell line deposited as FERM BP-7296, but the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins bind to the F1025-3-1 antibody.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 18, wherein the low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are primarily ~~mainly~~ 36 kDa protein ~~proteins~~ and the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are primarily ~~mainly~~ 49 kDa and 55 kDa ~~soluble CD14~~ proteins.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for selectively measuring high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in a body fluid sample from a patient comprising both high and low molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins, wherein said high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are human full length soluble CD14 proteins or soluble CD14 proteins having an amino acid sequence wherein 41 or less amino acids from the C-terminus of the amino acid sequence of human full length soluble CD14 protein, SEQ ID NO: 1, are deleted, comprising the steps of:

specifically reacting the body fluid to an anti-CD14 antibody which selectively binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 356 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

measuring the antibody-bound ~~reacted~~ amount of CD14 proteins,
the antibody-bound amount being indicative of the amount of
high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins in the body fluid
sample.

24. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 23, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1, or from positions 331 to 345 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

25. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 316 to 328 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are primarily
~~mainly~~ 49 kDa and 55 kDa proteins.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the anti-CD14 antibody binds to an amino acid sequence of from positions 331 to 345 of SEQ ID NO: 1, and

the high molecular weight soluble CD14 proteins are primarily
~~mainly~~ 55 kDa proteins.

27. (Currently Amended) An isolated antibody prepared by immunizing a mammal with a peptide consisting of amino acids 316-328 or amino acids 331-345 of SEQ ID NO: 1 ~~comprising 6 to 41 consecutive amino acids of from positions 316 to 356 of SEQ ID NO: 1.~~

28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously Presented - **Allowed**) An antibody produced by a hybridoma cell line deposited as Accession No. FERM BP-7295 or Accession No. FERM BP-7296.

30. (Previously Presented - **Allowed**) A hybridoma cell line deposited as Accession No. FERM BP-7295 or Accession No. FERM BP-7296.